CLEAN SET OF REVISED PARAGRAPHS

Paragraph following "Field of the Invention":

The present invention relates to solid phase extraction generally and, more particularly, but not by way of limitation, to a novel eluter for a solid phase extraction system method that simultaneously aspirates multiple samples to be processed by solid phase extraction through a unique defined area for each sample in the defined area to contain various solid phase extraction elements, without an intervening liquid transfer step, and eluting the samples to an analyzer.

A2

First two paragraphs following "Background Art":

High performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) and mass spectrography (MS) are commonly used for the analysis of various chemical products. HPLC and MS have the unique ability to identify specific chemical entities within a mixture of components. A very common use is in drug research and development in the pharmaceutical industry.

A3

In many cases, it is mandatory that the sample be preprocessed or "cleaned up" using solid phase extraction (SPE), prior to HPLC or MS. This is normally done by passing the sample through a silica bed. There are different silicas depending on the desired end product. C18 is a common SPE grade of silica and there are others. The component of interest, normally a chemical compound (e.g., a drug) is present mixed with other components within the sample. To analyze the compound of interest, it must first have some form of separation from the rest of the sample. Otherwise, the signal-to-noise ratio would be such that the component of interest could not be detected with sufficient precision.

Second paragraph on page 9:

Figure 3 illustrates an elution instrument, generally indicated by the reference numeral 150 for use following the above step. Elution instrument 150 includes a cabinet base 160 on which are mounted first and second stacker assemblies 162 and 164, the latter having removably mounted thereon, respectively, first and second cassettes 166 and 168 one or both containing a plurality of stacked SPE plates 20 from the above step. Also shown extending from the top of cabinet base 160 is an upper air cylinder 170, the function of which is described in detail below, and at the top of the upper air cylinder is an adjustable stop 172 and a cooperating adjustable stop nut 174 which limit the downward movement of a piston disposed in the upper air cylinder. A 0.010-inch diameter tube 180 extends from the upper end of upper air cylinder 170 and is connected (not shown) to an HPLC or MS instrument.